

Confusion on the Pill

I am writing to comment on the article "What About the Pill?" which appeared in *The Washington Post* Sept. 18.

Unfortunately, this article served only to compound "the confusion and contradictions which permeated the news accounts interpreting the report."

The author [Dr. Joshua Lederberg] quoted the committee as stating that it found no adequate scientific data at this time proving these compounds unsafe for human use, but he did not go on to state that neither did the committee find data to establish their safety.

He writes that each physician does indeed carry the moral and legal responsibility to evaluate the benefits and risks of the pill for his individual patient, ignoring the fact that this committee of experts was unable to make that very decision one way or the other.

He compares the risk of using the pill with the risk of abortions, driving an automobile, or flying in an airplane, instead of with well-established safe and effective methods of contraception.

He states that "the medical use of contraceptive drugs was first approved by the FDA on the basis of experience with some few hundred or thousand women . . ." yet in the book, *The Therapeutic Nightmare*, by Mr. Morton Mintz we find it well documented that there were far fewer than 200 women involved.

Frankly, I find the authors' interpretation of the report contradictory and confusing.

DAVID J. KIERNAN, M.D.
Arlington.

10-8-66

Get Mintz' book

ignoring?

Is anything safe.

"safe and effective" ?